

JUL 18 2006

PATENT
Atty. Okt. No. WEAT/0485**REMARKS**

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 18, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 18, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-14, 47, and 51-72 remain pending after entry of this response. Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-14, 47, and 50-68 stand rejected by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the pending claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 50-58 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claim 50 has been cancelled.

Claim 51 has been amended to clarify the movement of the two clamping members and overcome this rejection. Withdraw of the rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 5, 9, 12, 47, and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Haby* in view of *Pietras* (5,167,173).

Neither *Haby* nor *Pietras* disclose a second actuator causing the gripping members to engage the tubular and apply an increased force to the tubular. *Haby* discloses gripping dies 53-56 for gripping the tubular. The jaws 25 and 26 of *Haby* have an inner surface 27 that is in "close proximity to the outer surface of the upper pipe section." (Col. 3, ln. 26-29). The inner surface 27 is not capable of applying an increased force to the tubular. After the jaws 25, 26 are closed, some of the dies 53-56 are extended to apply a gripping force to the tubular. Only the dies 53-56 in *Haby* apply

Page 8

480303_1

force to the tubular. *Pietras* discloses that only jaws 7, 8 and 9 are capable of applying a force to the tubular. Therefore, the references, either alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest at least one of the jaws has an actuator coupled to one of the gripping members configured to move the at least one jaw independent of the gripping member in order to apply a force to the tubular and a second actuator configured to cause the first and second gripping members to engage the tubular and apply an increased force to the tubular, as recited in claims 1, 5, 6, 8-14, 47, 69 and 70. Thus, Applicants believe that claims 1, 5, 6, 8-14, 47, 69 and 70 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Haby* in view of *Liess, et al.* (6,814,149).

Claims 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 14 depend from claim 1, as discussed above. Applicants believe that claim 1 is in condition for allowance and thus, claims 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 14 are also in condition for allowance.

Claim 51-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hauk* (5,868,045) in view of *Haby*. The Examiner has failed to provide an objective teaching in the prior art that would lead to a combination of the references.

Neither *Haby* nor *Hauk* disclose a second actuator mounted on the clamping member for actuating the jaw independently of the clamping member and configured to apply an additional gripping force to the tubular. As discussed above, only the gripping dies 53-56 in *Haby* are designed for applying a gripping force to the tubular. *Hauk* discloses only gripping the tubular by spinning the nuts 50 using the handle H. Neither *Haby* nor *Hauk* discloses fine adjustment of gripping, as suggested by the Examiner. Neither *Haby* nor *Hauk* provides a reason for adding a second actuator capable of applying an additional gripping force. Further, if the hydraulic cylinders 62 and 63 of *Haby* were combined with *Hauk*, the cylinders would interfere with operation of the handles H. Therefore, the references, either alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest a second actuator mounted on one of the clamping members for actuating the jaw independently of the clamping member and configured to apply an

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. WEAT/0485

additional gripping force to the tubular as recited in claims 51-58 and 71. Further, the references, either alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest actuating the second actuator to cause the jaw to apply an additional gripping force to the tubular as recited in claims 59-68 and 72. Thus, Applicants believe that claims 51-68, 71, and 72 are in condition for allowance.

New Claims

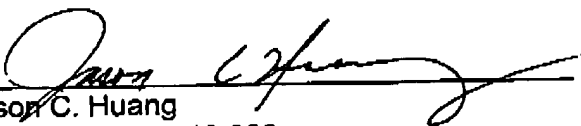
New claims 69-72 have been added, no new matter was added. Claims 69 and 70 depend from claim 1. Claim 71 depends from claim 51 and claim 72 depends from claim 59. As discussed above, Applicants believe that claims 1, 51 and 59 are in condition for allowance and thus believe claims 69-72 are also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

The references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Page 10

480303_1